

**INCOMING TELEGRAM***Department of State*

53-M

Action  
ARA~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Control: 5744  
Rec'd: FEBRUARY 8, 1963  
4:45 PM

25X1

Info

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FROM: MEXICO CITY

**S/S**

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2068, FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM (SECTION THREE OF FOUR)

25X1

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 2068; INFORMATION TAMPICO, MATAMOROS, VERACRUZ, MERIDA UNNUMBERED.

25X1

FIFTH. I NEXT ASKED IF THE GOM CONSIDERED THAT US AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENTS HAD FORMAL OR INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING THAT THE 20 CONVERTED MINE SWEEPERS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST US SHRIMP FISHING IN ZONE BETWEEN 3 AND 9 MILES OUT.

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TELLO SAID FOREIGN OFFICE FILES REFLECTED NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING. CARRILLO THEN GAVE HIS VERSION OF CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBJECT AND ORAL STATEMENTS BY GALLARDO IN WASHINGTON WHICH ADDED UP TO CONCLUSION THERE WAS NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING. IN SHORT, IT IS CLEAR THE GOM DOES NOT (REPEAT NOT) CONSIDER THERE HAS BEEN A MEETING OF MINDS ON THIS SUBJECT.

SIXTH. I NEXT INQUIRED WHETHER IT WERE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE SUBJECT NOW. AS AUTHORIZED DEPTTEL 2299 I SAID IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING DEPT MIGHT DELAY DELIVERY REMAINING MINE SWEEPERS. TO THIS TELLO REPLIED HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY SUCH UNDERTAKING. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE MEXICAN NAVY MINISTER ZERMENO WAS VERY RECENTLY QUOTED BY PRESS (DEPTTEL 1990) AS SAYING THAT 5 NEWLY ACQUIRED PATROL VESSELS THEN AT TAMPICO WOULD BE ASSIGNED BAY OF CAMPECHE TO MAKE VIGILANCE OVER MEXICO 9 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA MORE EFFECTIVE. TELLO CONFIRMED THAT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT "REASONABLY ACCURATE".

NEVERTHELESS TELLO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER THE LYCO

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-2- 2068; FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM, (SECTION THREE OF FOUR), FROM:  
MEXICO CITY

IX NOR THE SOUTHERN GLORY WERE IN FACT SEIZED BY THE  
CONVERTED US MINE SWEEPERS (DEPTELS 2289, 2285, 2278).  
I EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS NEWS AND ASKED WHAT SIGNIFICANCE  
THIS HAD RE FUTURE USE OF THE 20 SHIPS. TELLO LIMITED HIMSELF  
TO SAYING A) I SHOULD REPORT THIS AS A FACT AND B) ANY ACTION  
TAKEN BY THE US BEFORE THE ACTUAL USE OF THE CONVERTED  
MINE SWEEPERS AGAINST A US SHRIMPER WOULD BE PREMATURE.  
TO THIS I REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION REMAINED OF WHETHER THESE  
SHIPS WOULD BE USED AGAINST US SHRIMPERS IN THE FUTURE.

I CANNOT GIVE THE DEPARTMENT ANY ASSURANCES THAT THE CONVERTED  
MINE SWEEPERS WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST OUR SHRIMPERS ON WHAT  
WE CONSIDER TO BE HIGH SEAS IN THE FUTURE. BUT I NOTE THEY HAVE  
APPARENTLY NOT BEEN SO USED THUS FAR AND THE POSSIBILITY  
EXISTS THEY WILL NOT BE. THE DISTINCTION WHICH MEXICAN  
FOREIGN POLICY MAKES BETWEEN "AGREEING" TO ANYTHING CON-  
SIDERED BY THEM TO BE IN DEROGATION OF MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY  
AND VOLUNTARILY REFRAINING FROM EXERCISING WHAT IT CONSIDERS  
TO BE ITS RIGHTS IS WELL KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT. SURELY TELLO  
WAS LEFT UNDER NO MISAPPREHENSION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE  
DEPARTMENT ATTACHES TO THIS FACET OF THE QUESTION. I AM  
ONLY REFERRING HOWEVER TO AN APPARENT FACT IN THE PAST  
AND TO A POSSIBILITY IN THE FUTURE.

SEVENTH. I ASKED TELLO WHETHER HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT FORTUNATE  
IF THE MEXICANS ALREADY IN THE US (GOROSTIZA SAID THEY HAD  
ALREADY ARRIVED) DECIDED TO TAKE A SHORT VACATION BEFORE ASKING  
FOR DELIVERY SO THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TIME TO FIGURE  
OUT A "SALIDA" FROM OUR DILEMMA. HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE.

I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE FOR US TO REFUSE DELIVERY  
OF THE RECONDITIONED SHIPS TITLE TO WHICH HAS, AS I UNDERSTAND,  
ALREADY PASSED TO MEXICO. THIS WOULD PRECIPITATE AN IMPASSE  
FOR WHICH I CAN FORESEE NO SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

MANN

MRJ

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NOTE: Mr. Sayre (ARA) notified. Read by Mr. Sullivan (UFW) 2/8/ EH

**INCOMING TELEGRAM***Department of State*

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53-M  
Action  
ARACONFIDENTIALControl: 5895  
Rec'd: FEBRUARY 8, 1963  
6:55 PM

FROM: MEXICO CITY

Info

SS  
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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 2068, FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM (SECTION FOUR OF FOUR)

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 2068; INFORMATION TAMPICO, MATAMOROS,  
VERACRUZ, MERIDA UNNUMBERED.

I REALIZE DEPTTEL 2299 ONLY SPEAKS OF "DELAYING" DELIVERY AND THAT I MYSELF SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DO SOME FURTHER REPAIRS OR PAINTING AS A PRETEXT TO GAIN TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS. NOW THAT I HAVE GONE OVER QUESTION WITH TELLO I THINK MY SUGGESTION NO LONGER VALID AND RECOMMEND THAT THE 5 SHIPS IN QUESTION BE DELIVERED ON SCHEDULE.

THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION IS THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER OUR DELAY OR FAILURE TO DELIVER SHIPS WILL NOT IN ITSELF PREVENT SEIZURE OF OUR SHRIMPING VESSELS. IT WOULD HOWEVER, BY FORCING ISSUE, DIMINISH THE CHANCES THAT MEXICO WILL "LAY OFF" FOR A WHILE. IT COULD LEAD TO WHOLESALE SEIZURES. ON THE ASSUMPTION WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MEET FORCE WITH FORCE AT THIS TIME (WHICH WOULD PLUNGE OUR RELATIONS TO NEW CENTURY LOW AND ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO CHARGES AND HEARINGS IN UN OR OAS) WHOLESALE SEIZURES WOULD ONLY WORSEN OUR PRESENT DILEMMA.

I CANNOT ESTIMATE WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS INTOLERABLE THE RISK THAT THE CONVERTED MINE SWEEPERS WILL BE USED AGAINST US. I REALIZE THAT IN THE HEAT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL DISCUSSION SIGHT MAY BE LOST OF THE FACT -- AND IT IS FACT -- THAT MEXICO DOES NOT HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE OLD MINE SWEEPERS TO SEIZE OUR FISHING VESSELS; THAT THE ISSUE ABOUT THE CONVERTED MINE

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-2- 2068 FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM, SECTION FOUR OF FOUR), FROM:  
MEXICO CITY

SWEEPERS IS MORE EMOTIONAL THAN REALISTIC. IF THE JUDGMENT IS THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF USE OF THE CONVERTED MINE SWEEPERS AGAINST OUR VESSELS, THEN I RECOMMEND THAT WE SIMPLY TELL THE GOM THAT IN VIEW OF THE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE USES TO WHICH THE MINE SWEEPERS WOULD BE PUT, AND IN VIEW OF OUR INABILITY TO ELIMINATE THE MISUNDERSTANDING BY A NEW AGREEMENT, THE ENTIRE TRANSACTION SHOULD BE RESCINDED, (#) THE US RETURNS WHATEVER MONEY HAS BEEN PAID BY MEXICO AND MEXICO RETURNS THE 10 CONVERTED MINE SWEEPERS TO US. I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS BE DONE BUT ABROGATION OF THE CONTRACT IS PREFERABLE TO EXPOSING OURSELVES TO THE CHARGE THAT WE REFUSE TO LIVE UP TO OUR AGREEMENT.

MANN

MRJ

(#)OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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CONTROL: 5895  
CORRECTION ISSUED:  
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MANN

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